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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Bisgaard-Frantzen et al.

Confirmation No: 7527

Serial No.: 09/902,188

Group Art Unit: 1751

Filed: July 10, 2001

Examiner: To be assigned

For: Amylase Variants

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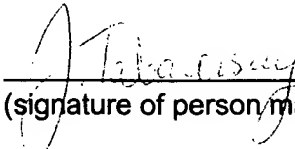
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PATENT

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Before examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add the following new claims:

68. A variant of a parent alpha-amylase enzyme, wherein said parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 80% homology to SEQ ID NO:3, and wherein said variant comprises deletions at positions equivalent to positions 180 and 181 in SEQ ID NO:3 (using SEQ ID NO:3 for numbering).
69. The variant of claim 68, wherein said parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 85% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.
70. The variant of claim 68, wherein said parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.
71. The variant of claim 68, wherein said parent alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 95% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.
72. The variant of claim 68, wherein said variant further comprises amino acid substitutions of a cysteine at positions equivalent to positions 349 and 428 in SEQ ID NO:3.